

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11-12, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,548,390 to Sugisaki et al. ("Sugisaki"). Claims 2, 5, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugisaki and U.S. Patent No. 6,674,456 to Miyazaki ("Miyazaki").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, and 15 are amended to further define the invention.

All claims define allowable subject matter

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11-12, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugisaki. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, and 15 are amended to further define the invention. In particular, claim 1 now includes a description of how the first controller "divides printing data for each slip into data to be printed on the obverse of the sheet in the first printer and data to be printed on the reverse side of the sheet in the second printer." Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, and 15 have all been amended to emphasize that more than one slip may be printed on either the obverse or reverse of a page. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and urges allowance of claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11-12, and 14-16 as amended.

The Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's definition of the word "slip" and states that a "'discrete' portion of printed material can be thought of as each and every line or group of printed material on any given page." Further, the Examiner notes that the Applicant "fails to specifically point out in the present specification, by page and line number, where the word 'slip'

is defined.” Applicant’s definition of a “slip” as a “discrete portion of printed material such as a receipt, a form, a reproduction of a printed page, etc., more than one of which may be printed on a single page” is based on the ordinary dictionary definition of “slip” as “a small piece of paper, esp. a small form, document, or receipt.” (THE AMERICAN HERITAGE COLLEGE DICTIONARY (3d. ed. 2000) at 1282). On page 8, the third full paragraph of the present specification discusses “transmitting printing data per slip, including page-number information of a slip.” In addition, Figure 2 shows slips as discrete portions of printed matter, each meriting its own mark (associated with page-number in the third paragraph of page 12), as described in the last paragraph of page 11. These discussions of slips are in full agreement with the dictionary definition provided above. In light of the ordinary dictionary definition of the word “slip” used in the specification, the Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertion that a slip can be considered to be “each and every line or group of printed material on any given page.”

The Examiner further asserts that “Sugisaki et al. describes a first printer (11) having the ability to print on a top surface, depending on

Sugisaki does not disclose the limitations of allowing the first printer to print one slip per page or sequentially print a plurality of slips per page or of the second printing control unit receiving size information of a slip on the obverse of the same page, as recited in claims 1 and 9. The Examiner asserts that these limitations are found in col. 6, ln. 58-60 and col. 28, ln. 32-41, respectively, of Sugisaki. Col. 6, ln. 58-60 of Sugisaki describes first and second printers which print on opposite sides of a continuous sheet, while col. 28, ln. 32-41 simply describes the first printer 11 printing a mark on one side of a page to allow the second printer 12 to determine which page is associated with the other side in case of breakage of the continuous form before it

is loaded into the second printer. Sugisaki specifically teaches against printing more than one slip per page. E.g., at col. 11, lines 10-14, Sugisaki explains that “an intermediate buffer is provided which includes an adjusting means for adjusting the number of pages existing between the printing positions of the first printing portion 61 and the second printing portion 62 to exactly an integer.” Col. 15, lines 63-67; col. 22, lines 12-16; and col. 31, lines 52-57 of Sugisaki describe odd pages being printed on the top surface and even pages being printed on the back surface of continuous forms. Col. 21, lines 11-16 of Sugisaki describes the counter discarding fractional pages so only one is added to the counter. Similarly, col. 29, lines 41-46 of Sugisaki describes the first printer 11 beginning printing of an odd number on the top surface and advancing the count value of the counter by one every time one page is fed. Furthermore, at col. 34, lines 30-52, Sugisaki explains:

If the page size (length between the perforations) of the continuous forms used is different, the number of pages existing between the printing positions of the first and second printing portions 61, 62 is not exactly an integer but contains a fraction such as 3.3. In such a case, the printing positions of the continuous forms CF by the first and second printing portions 61, 62 are different from each other. In FIG. 36A, the number of pages existing between the printing positions is just 3. In FIG. 36B, however, the number of pages existing between the printing positions is 3.5. In this case, it is difficult to control so that the printed portions are the same on the top surface and on the back surface.

To solve this problem, in the present invention, there is provided a means for adjusting the number of forms between the printing positions of the first printing portion 61 and the second printing portion 62 to exactly an integer. As shown in FIG. 36C, an intermediate buffer 68 provided with a paper size adjusting lever 69 is disposed between the first and second printing portions 61, 62. The lever 69 is vertically moved in accordance with the paper size so that the number of pages existing between the printing positions of the first and second printing portions 61, 62 is an integer.

In contrast to Sugisaki, the present invention allows either a single slip or multiple slips to be printed between page breaks, as recited in claims 1 and 9. In other words, multiple slips

may be on one side of a single page once the continuous sheet is cut at the page breaks, each slip having its own page-number as clearly shown in Fig. 2. This feature is not disclosed or suggested in Sugisaki, which merely describes printing one page (or slip, as used in the present invention) on each side between page breaks.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1 and 9, and their dependent claims 2-8 and 10-16, be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-16 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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